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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

# Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

## YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1963

T. Jordan, Printer, Okehampton

## PUBLIC HEALTH and HOUSING COMMITTEES

The following members of the Council served on the Public Health and the Housing Committees during the year:

*Housing Committee*

Chairman

ALDERMAN W. T. LETCHFORD

Vice-Chairman

COUNCILLOR R. TAYLOR

Members

ALDERMAN H. R. HORNE
ALDERMAN C. G. JONES
ALDERMAN A. W. RICHMOND
COUNCILLOR A. J. D. BROWN
COUNCILLOR G. W. J. COOMBE
COUNCILLOR J. F. HAYHURST
COUNCILLOR MRS. I. V. KENNARD
COUNCILLOR F. A. PARTRIDGE
COUNCILLOR W. J. PASSMORE
COUNCILLOR E. H. RAE

*Public Health Committee*

Chairman

COUNCILLOR W. W. J. CORNISH

Vice-Chairman

COUNCILLOR A. J. CROCKER

Members

ALDERMAN C. G. JONES
COUNCILLOR G. W. J. COOMBE
COUNCILLOR J. F. HAYHURST
COUNCILLOR MRS. I. V. KENNARD
COUNCILLOR E. H. RAE
COUNCILLOR C. E. W. WHITE

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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health*
E. D. ALLEN-PRICE, M.D., CH.B., D.P.H.

*Borough Engineer and Surveyor*
R. A. BRUNSKILL, M.INST.R.A., M.R.S.H.

*Public Health Inspector and Borough Surveyor Designate*
T. F. BENNETT, M.A.P.H.I.
(from September, 1963)

*Public Health Inspector*
R. F. M. SAUNDERS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
(until April, 1963)

*Assistant to Borough Surveyor*
E. FURSE

*Medical Officer of Health's Assistant*
MISS P. B. FLETCHER

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Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1963, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

The general health of the Borough has been good throughout the year, and Vital Statistics are set out in Section "A" of this report.

The 1961 Census is now to hand, and I am including certain details from this report as I feel they will be of interest to you: On the night of the Census there were 1,222 dwellings with an occupier present, and of this total 16 (1.4%) were without a cold water tap inside the house, 292 were without a hot water supply, 284 without a fixed bath, and 28 (2.2%) were without a water closet.

### Population

| | *Males* | *Females* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1,784 | 2,080 | =3,864 |
| over 65 years of age | 265 | 409 | = 674 (17% of total population) |

### Distribution

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Population in | Private households .... .... .... | 3,680 |
| | Hotels .... .... .... .... .... | 61 |
| | Hospitals .... .... .... .... | 59 |
| | Homes for the Old .... .... .... | 34 |
| | Educational Estab. .... .... .... | 25 |
| | Vagrants .... .... .... .... | 5 |
| | Total | 3,864 |

There are two National Health Service Hospitals and one Old People's Home within the Borough.

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## SECTION "A"

### General Statistics

| | |
|---|---|
| Area (statute acres) .... .... .... .... | 786 |
| Population – 1951 census .... .... .... | 3,899 |
| Population – 1961 census .... .... .... | 3,864 |
| Estimated home population mid 1963 .... | 3,800 |
| Number of inhabited houses .... .... | 1,300 |
| Rateable value .... .... .... .... | £110,928 |
| Product of the Penny Rate .... .... | £437 |
| Loan Debt .... .... .... .... .... | £216,049, 10s. 1d. |

### Vital Statistics

| Live Births | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate .... .... .... | 18 | 19 | |
| Illegitimate .... .... .... | 2 | 3 | =42 |
| Deaths .... .... .... | 38 | 36 | =74 |

| | | England and Wales |
|---|---|---|
| **Live Births** | | |
| Number .... .... .... .... .... .... | 42 | |
| Rate per 1,000 population .... .... .... | 11.05 | 18.2 |
| Corrected Birth rate .... .... .... .... | 12.48 | |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births | 11.9% | |
| **Stillbirths** | | |
| Number .... .... .... .... .... .... | Two | |
| Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births | 45.4 | 17.3 |
| Total live and still births .... .... .... | 44 | |
| **Infant Mortality Rates** | | |
| Infant deaths under one year .... .... .... | Two | |
| Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births .... | 47.6 | 20.9 |
| Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .... .... .... .... .... .... | 27.0 | |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births .... .... .... .... .... | 200.0 | |
| Neo-Natal Mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) .... .... .... | — | |
| Early Neo-Natal Mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) .... .... | — | |
| Perinatal Mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) .... .... .... .... .... | 45.4 | |
| **Maternal Mortality Rate** (including abortion) | | |
| Number of deaths .... .... .... .... | nil | |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births .... | — | |
| **Deaths** | | |
| Crude death rate per 1,000 population .... .... | 19.4 | 12.2 |
| Corrected death rate .... .... .... .... | 13.58 | |

| *Year* | *Mid-year Population* | *Birth Rate* | *Death Rate* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1959 .... | 3,900 | 14.8 | 16.2 |
| 1960 .... | 3,900 | 11.2 | 16.6 |
| 1961 .... | 3,800 | 12.6 | 18.1 |
| 1962 .... | 3,800 | 12.1 | 21.3 |
| 1963 .... | 3,800 | 11.05 | 19.4 |

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*The chief causes of death were as follows:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Cancer .... .... .... .... .... | 8 |
| Vascular diseases .... .... .... .... | 14 |
| Coronary diseases .... .... .... .... | 24 |
| Other heart diseases .... .... .... | 7 |
| Pneumonia .... .... .... .... .... | 6 |
| Bronchitis .... .... .... .... .... | 1 |
| Other Respiratory diseases .... .... | 2 |
| Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .... .... | 1 |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis .... .... .... | 3 |
| Other ill-defined diseases .... .... .... | 4 |
| Accidental .... .... .... .... .... | 4 |

### Age at Death Table

| *Age* | *Male* | *Female* |
|---|---|---|
| Under 1 year .... .... .... .... | 1 | 1 |
| 1-4 years .... .... .... .... | — | — |
| 5-14 years .... .... .... .... | — | — |
| 15-24 years .... .... .... .... | — | — |
| 25-34 years .... .... .... .... | — | — |
| 35-44 years .... .... .... .... | 1 | — |
| 45-54 years .... .... .... .... | 1 | 2 |
| 55-64 years .... .... .... .... | 5 | 4 |
| 65-74 years .... .... .... .... | 13 | 7 |
| 75 years and over .... .... .... | 17 | 22 |
| TOTAL | 38 | 36 |

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## SECTION "B"

### General Provision of Health Services

There was no change in the general provision of the health service during the year.

### National Assistance Act, 1948

No use was made during the year of the provisions of Section 47 of this Act.

### Ambulances

The St. John Ambulance Brigade – under delegated powers from the local County Health Authority – provide a twenty-four hour cover for the district as a whole.

### Mass Radiography Unit

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Okehampton in June. 180 persons attended for examination: no newly discovered significant cases were recorded, although two healed cases and two previously known cases were noted. Two conditions other than Tuberculosis were also discovered.

### War Memorial Hospital

During the year 87 babies were born in the War Memorial Hospital as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Okehampton Borough .... .... .... .... | 21 |
| Okehampton Rural .... .... .... .... | 59 |
| Others .... .... .... .... .... .... | 7 |

47% of the total births registered to the Okehampton Borough took place in the War Memorial Hospital.

SECTION "C"

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

### Water Supply – Sources

Supplies are from water-sheds on Dartmoor and there are two intakes. One at Newbridge three miles from the town on the Blackaven stream, where 7″ and 5″ intake mains have been in operation since 1939, and a second much smaller intake by 4″ main from Yes Tor on the Redaven stream, some 2½ miles from Okehampton, which has been in use for about 60 years.

During the year the majority of the 7″ and 5″ intake mains from the Blackaven stream have been scraped and cleaned. This has materially improved the quantity of water supply to the Filter Station from this intake.

### Rainfall

Rainfall records are normally taken monthly at Cranmere Pool and Newbridge at the water-sheds, and daily at the Filter Station and Pleasure Grounds. The rainfall figures for the past five years are as follows:

| | 1963 | 1962 | 1961 | 1960 | 1959 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cranmere .... | 87.93 | 83.85 | 81.85 | 74.55 | 70.00 |
| Newbridge .... | 65.60 | 57.61 | 65.80 | 83.60 | 56.70 |
| Filter Station .... | 54.39 | 44.92 | 52.03 | 71.57 | 60.01 |
| Pleasure Gardens | 54.55 | 44.42 | 50.00 | 73.30 | 59.58 |
| Dry days (no rain) | 156 | 164 | 157 | 138 | 189 |

The driest months were January, May and December, and the wettest months August and November.

The heaviest rainfalls were 1.15 on March 9th, 1.16 on November 4th and 1.08 on November 10th.

### Filtration and Treatment

The pressure filtration and treatment plant at Brackentor has been in continuous operation during the year.

The treated water is clear, soft, colourless and of excellent taste. Analysis indicates it to be of very satisfactory standard of purity both bacteriologically and chemically. Thirteen samples taken for bacteriological analysis during the year passed to Ministry of Health Class 1 standard. P.H. values have been generally maintained at about 7.00.

Chlorination plant is available at the Filter Station for immediate use in emergency.

### Distribution

During the year 12 new connections have been provided and 195 complaints received and dealt with.

### Mains

During the year a new 2″ alkathene main was laid from Mill Road to serve the Pleasure Grounds and Pavilion.

## Sewerage

### 1. Disposal Works

Instructions have been given during the year to your Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme for a Sewage Disposal Works to serve the whole of the Borough at Hill Barton. Such a scheme is essential if the Borough is to retain its position and encourage light industrial development in these times when adequate sewage disposal arrangements are a pre-requisite of expansion.

The increased powers of the River Board accentuate the urgency of this scheme and it is hoped that the coming year will bring steady progress in this direction.

### 2. Sewer Extensions

A Contract has been placed for three sewer extensions to serve the Exeter Road, Chichacott and Lodge Hill areas. Construction work on these should commence in the New Year.

During the year the sewer in High Street has been extended to serve all the properties on that road within the Borough.

## Swimming Pool

Efforts are still being made by the Okehampton and District Swimming Pool Association to provide an up-to-date swimming pool in the Borough.

## Public Conveniences

These have been well maintained during the year. A part-time lady cleaner was employed at the Fairplace Gardens Ladies' Conveniences during the summer months, the results were encouraging and this arrangement will probably be repeated next year.

## Rodent Control

Four treatments of the sewer systems have been carried out by the Council's operator in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food during the year. 10 complaints have been received and dealt with.

## Refuse Collection and Disposal

During the year the new tip at Peacewater has been brought into operation and dumping at the old tip has ceased. This has entailed an additional transport cost but has obviated the undoubted nuisance of the old tip which was so close to the built up area.

The Council have given much consideration to the purchase of a new refuse vehicle, bearing in mind the extra travelling time involved in taking the refuse to the new tip. It is anticipated that this new vehicle will come into service early in 1964.

Much attention is paid at the new tip to the control of flies and vermin. The frequent use of insecticide, and periodic inspections to ensure that there is no rat infestation, maintains effective control.

## Inspection of the District and Public Health Services

The number of complaints regarding Public Health matters received, recorded and dealt with during the year was 16.

The following table sets out the inspections carried out during the year.

| | |
|---|---|
| Housing .... .... .... .... .... | 153 |
| Drainage .... .... .... .... .... | 31 |
| Public Conveniences .... .... .... | 36 |
| Sewerage .... .... .... .... .... | 90 |
| Water Supply .... .... .... .... | 51 |
| Rivers .... .... .... .... .... | 2 |
| Refuse Disposal .... .... .... .... | 89 |
| Dangerous Structures .... .... .... | 5 |
| Rodent Control .... .... .... .... | 29 |
| Meat Shops and Slaughterhouses .... .... | 78 |
| Moveable dwellings .... .... .... .... | 9 |
| Schools .... .... .... .... .... | 3 |
| Disinfection and disinfestation .... .... | 1 |
| Food Premises .... .... .... .... | 96 |
| Egg Packing Station .... .... .... | 3 |
| Offensive Trades .... .... .... .... | 2 |
| Informal Notices – remedied .... .... | 10 |
| Petroleum Acts .... .... .... .... | 3 |
| Miscellaneous .... .... .... .... | 419 |
| TOTAL | 1,110 |

## Factories Act, 1961

Details of inspections carried out in accordance with the Factories Act, 1961, are set out in the tables which follow:

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| *Premises* | *Number on Register* | *Inspections* | *Number of* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Written Notices* | *Occupiers Prosecuted* |
| i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .... .... | 4 | — | — | — |
| ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .... .... | 45 | 36 | — | — |
| iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) | 12 | 12 | — | — |
| TOTAL .... | 61 | 48 | — | — |

2. Cases in which Defects were Found

| *Particulars* | *Number of cases in which defects were found* | | | | *Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Found* | *Remedied* | Referred *to H.M. Inspector* | Referred *by H.M. Inspector* | |
| Want of Cleanliness | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding .... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature .... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation .... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors .... | — | — | — | — | — |
| *Sanitary Conven'ces* | | | | | |
| (*a*) Insufficient | — | — | — | — | — |
| (*b*) Unsuitable or defective | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| (*c*) Not separate for the sexes | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences (not including out-work) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 2 | 2 | — | — | — |

3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

| Nature of Work | Section 133 | | | Section 134 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)* | *No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council* | *No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists* | *No. of Instances of work in unwholesome premises* | *Notices served* | *Prosecutions* |
| Wearing Apparel (Making etc.) .... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |

## SECTION "D"

## HOUSING

### Town and Country Planning and Building Byelaws

Application for permission to develop under the Town and Country Planning Acts, Advertising Regulations, Caravan Site and Control of Development Act, 1960, and the Council's Building Byelaws have been received over the past twelve months as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Alterations and Conversions .... .... | 23 |
| Advertisement Signs .... .... .... | 7 |
| Public Works .... .... .... .... | 10 |
| New Dwellings .... .... .... .... | 15 |
| Caravan Sites .... .... .... .... | 3 |
| TOTAL .... | 58 |

Of the above 4 applications have been refused.

### Private Enterprise

Six new houses were erected by private individuals during the year.

### Improvement Grants

Six applications for Standard Improvement Grants under the provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, were received and approved. Of these five have been completed during the year.

### Council Housing

#### New Houses

Eight flats at the Wonnacotts Housing Estate have been completed during the year.

### Maintenance and Repairs

Normal maintenance and repairs have again been minor in character and all except electrical repairs have been carried out by the Council's maintenance staff.

Repairs are carried out as speedily as possible and during the year 327 reports were received and/or dealt with.

Arrangements for thoroughly cleaning, repairing and redecorating each house on change of tenancy ensure the incoming tenant taking over a house in first-class condition. Some tenants have been permitted to exchange their accommodation so as to prevent overcrowding and eliminate under-occupation.

SECTION "E"

## Inspection and Supervision of Food

### Food Premises

The number of food premises falling within the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Grocers .... .... .... .... | 14 |
| Greengrocers .... .... .... | 9 |
| Confectioners .... .... .... | 4 |
| Bread and Cakes .... .... .... | 5 |
| Meat Shops .... .... .... | 8 |
| Fish Shops .... .... .... | 2 |
| Milk Shops .... .... .... | 2 |
| Dairies .... .... .... .... | 3 |
| Hotels and Bars .... .... .... | 9 |
| Cafes .... .... .... .... | 8 |

### Ice Cream and Preserved Foods

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ice Cream .... .... .... .... | 25 |
| Preparation or manufacture of sausage or potted or pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale .... .... .... .... | 6 |

### Unsound Food

Six certificates for unsound food were issued during the year, and 30 lbs. of miscellaneous food stuffs condemned.

### Slaughterhouses

One slaughterhouse has been in regular use during the year and has been satisfactorily maintained.

Details of the number of animals killed and inspected and the carcases, parts or organs condemned are set out in the table on page 14.

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Applications were received for licences or renewal of licences to slaughter, and in all 8 cases were granted.

### Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

**Samples taken under Section 2, Food and Drugs Act, 1955**

| | |
|---|---|
| Condensed Full Cream Milk<br>Double Devon Cream<br>Salmon Spread<br>Pork Sausages<br>Drinking Chocolate<br>Liquid Apples<br>Clotted Cream<br>Buttercrisp Biscuits<br>Margarine with 10% Butter<br>Butter<br>Steak and Kidney Pie<br>Fish Cakes<br>Malt Vinegar<br>Whisky<br>Buttered Madeira<br>T.C.P.<br>24 Samples of milk | All Genuine |

Milk – 7% deficient – No Action.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

| | *Cattle excluding Cows* | *Cows* | *Calves* | *Sheep and Lambs* | *Pigs* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number killed (if known) .... .... | | | | | |
| Number inspected .... | 185 | — | 1 | 417 | 378 |
| *All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:* Whole carcases condemned .... .... | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .... | 34 | — | — | 37 | 22 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and Cysticerci | 18.9% | — | 100% | 9.11% | 6.35% |
| *Tuberculosis only:* Whole carcases condemned .... .... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .... | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .... .... | — | — | — | — | 0.26% |
| *Cysticercosis:* Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration .... .... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Generalised and totally condemned .... | — | — | — | — | — |

## SECTION "F"

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

**Infectious diseases notified by Medical Practitioners**

| | *Measles* | | *Pneumonia* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *M* | *F* | *M* | *F* |
| Under 1 year .... .... .... | — | — | — | — |
| 1 year .... .... .... .... | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| 2 years .... .... .... .... | — | 2 | — | — |
| 3 years .... .... .... .... | 2 | — | — | — |
| 4 years .... .... .... .... | 3 | 2 | — | — |
| 5–9 years .... .... .... .... | 6 | 14 | — | — |
| 10–14 years .... .... .... | 1 | — | — | — |
| 15–24 years .... .... .... | — | — | — | — |
| 25 years and over .... .... | — | — | 1 | — |
| Age unknown .... .... .... | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL .... | 13 | 19 | 1 | — |

**Infectious dieases notified by School Authorities**

| | *Mumps* | *Chicken Pox* | *Measles* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Okehampton County Secondary .... .... | 1 | — | — |
| Okehampton County Primary .... .... | — | 6 | 14 |
| TOTALS .... | 1 | 6 | 14 |

**Tuberculosis**

No deaths were recorded during the year from this cause, neither were any new cases added to the Register.

At the end of the year 24 cases remained on the Register as follows:

| *Pulmonary* | | *Non-Pulmonary* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *M* | *F* | *M* | *F* |
| 11 | 10 | 2 | 1 |

In conclusion, I would thank the Mayor and Corporation for the ready hearing my proposals always receive, and also all those members of the Public Health Staff who have assisted in the preparation of this report.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE,

*Medical Officer of Health.*